

STABILIZED VIRAL ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND USES THEREOF**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid which
comprises a nucleotide segment having a sequence encoding
a viral envelope protein comprising a viral surface
protein and a corresponding viral transmembrane protein
wherein the viral envelope protein contains one or more
mutations in amino acid sequence that enhance the
10 stability of the complex formed between the viral surface
protein and transmembrane protein. This invention also
provides a viral envelope protein comprising a viral
surface protein and a corresponding viral transmembrane
protein wherein the viral envelope protein contains one
15 or more mutations in amino acid sequence that enhance the
stability of the complex formed between the viral surface
protein and transmembrane protein. This invention further
provides methods of treating HIV-1 infection.

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